

***TOWN OF NEWFIELDS BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MEETING MINUTES  
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2006***

The meeting was called to order at 6:40pm. Selectmen present were: Janet Smith, James McIlroy, and Wes Moore. Others present were: Sue McKinnon, Fran Lane, Melissa Lattman, and Linda Linnemeyer.

Sue had abatement requests from several residents. The residents feel they should not be charged the penalty for failure to return a completed Inventory Form as the forms were due before they moved to Newfields.

Janet made a motion to abate these Inventory Penalties and James amended the motion to abate the penalties with the condition that the new residents complete an inventory form at this time. The motion passed with all in favor. Four abatements were then signed.

At 6:55pm the meeting went into a non-public session with Town Counsel Fran Lane per RSA 91-A-3III. The meeting re-opened to the public at 7:55pm.

The Nature Conservancy request that the Town of Newfields donate conservation easements to them was reviewed by the Selectmen and was denied. The Selectmen support the Nature Conservancy and their work in the State of New Hampshire, but this Agreement is not favorable to the Town of Newfields. The Selectmen are very concerned of the obligations to the Town by this agreement, but would re-consider if a financial incentive was offered.

Linda Linnemeyer came to the meeting to discuss the penalty assessed on her December tax bill. She explained to the Selectmen that she did not receive the form (it could have been sent to the attorney's office handling her mother's affairs) and does not feel she should have to pay the penalty fee. Linda offered to complete an Inventory Form tonight in lieu of the penalty.

Wes made a motion to abate the penalty for Linda Linnemeyer with the understanding that the Inventory Form be completed each April in the future and that no abatements will be given to her after this year. James seconded the motion and the motion passed with all in favor.

Janet made a motion to re-appoint Ray Buxton as the Fire Warden. James seconded the motion and the motion passed with all in favor. The Selectmen then signed the appointment form.

The Selectmen asked the State of New Hampshire Department of Labor for an extension to file an objection to a Notice of Wage Claim. The Selectmen need to contact counsel

for advice on how to proceed and agreed to use Attorney Flygare for the issue. (Attorney Flygare drafted the Town's Personnel Plan.) Wes will contact him to see if he can represent the Town, and if not Wes will contact the other attorney recommended by Fran Lane and Chief Reed.

Some residents have issues with commercial trash being picked up by the Town's trash collector. Action cannot be taken without a formal complaint being presented to the Selectmen. Residents are reminded that Bestway Disposal Service is contracted for residential trash pick-up only and commercial trash should not be left out for pick-up by them.

Wes informed the Selectmen that the Lamprey Regional Cooperative gave the Town of Newfields one free week of trash disposal in October. As the actual tonnage cannot be determined for that week, the Cooperative decided not to charge Newfields.

Wes said that Paul Deschaines of Stratham has been negotiating a new contract for curbside trash pick-up for Stratham, Newmarket, and Newfields. Bestway asked for a 35% increase, Paul got them down to a 25% percent increase with COLA on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> years of the contract and a surcharge for fuel if the cost goes above \$3.00 per gallon.

Wes said Paul is looking into a possible six month contract instead of three years in order to obtain bids from other companies. Wes stated that Bestway has been doing a great job in Newfields and that other companies may not be interested in the job because of the size of the Town.

Wes will update the Selectmen next week on the progress of the negotiations.

Wes spoke with Lyndi Sargent of Girls on the Run regarding the complaint of the state of the Town Hall after her group's rental. Lyndi stated that there was an issue about the same thing last year, so this year she made sure it was cleaned up and had the Police Chief look at the hall before she left. Wes then spoke with Chief Reed who indicated that the trash had been cleaned up, but the chairs were left out.

It was decided to re-write the current rental agreement for the Town Hall with a list of items to be checked before the renter leaves the hall. The fees will also be updated to be more in line with the cost of keeping the Town Hall open. A list of fee exempt groups will be compiled for the use of the Town Hall. The list will include Town Departments and groups such as the Garden Club who provide a service to the Town at no cost to the Town.

Wes stated that he is unable to attend the Selectmen's Meeting on December 19, 2006.

Wes also spoke with the president of the Pan Am Railroad regarding the train whistles. The President stated that there is very little the Town can do to stop the whistles. Wes will notify the residents complaining about the train whistles that nothing can be done at this time.

Nancy was asked to contact Reuben Hull about attending a Selectmen's Meeting to discuss the progress of the handicapped ramp.

Checks were signed.

The Municipal Assessment Data Sheets Certificate was signed.

The Highway Budget had a cursory review and was tabled until next week when the Budget Advisory Committee will meet with the Selectmen.

There was a complaint about a mess around the cell tower. Ray Buxton informed the Town Office that the cell tower company will have the area cleaned up by Christmas.

Nancy was asked to put the Town Report out to bid. The printing must include the Table of Contents and the pages must be numbered.

The Notice from the Lane Law Office was reviewed which indicates that there will be an increase in the legal fees effective January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2007.

Janet made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 14, 2006 meeting. Wes seconded the motion and the motion passed with both in favor. James abstained from the vote as he was not present at that meeting.

James made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 21, 2006 meeting as amended. Wes seconded the motion and the motion passed with both in favor. Janet abstained from the vote as she did not attend that meeting.

Janet made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 28, 2006 meeting as amended. Wes seconded the motion and the motion passed with all in favor.

At 10:20pm the Selectmen went into a non-public session per RSA 91-A:3II.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy J. Spencer